4. Persons holding normal passports may be issued with fresh passports after 10 years of its validity without prior Police CID verification.

5. Furthermore, in order to ensure expeditious clearance monitoring of Passports issued and pending is done through weekly progress reports in respect of each Passport Office.

6. With effect from 16th August, 1990, fresh passports are being issued for a period of ten years at a stretch so that a passport holder need not visit a Passport Office for renewal after first five years as was the case before August, 1990.

STATEMENT III

(d) Yes, sir, there is a shortage of regular staff at Cochin Passport Office.

(e) Since there is a ban on creation of posts, additional posts, commensurate with work-load could not be got sanctioned. It will be difficult to get additional regular staff while the current financial constraints continue. In the meantime, to mitigate the shortage of staff, Passport Office, Cochin has been allowed to engage casual workers and give incentives like overtime allowance to the staff to clear the backlog.

Communication Facilities in Pauri Garhwal and Chamoli Districts on U.P.

2200. SHRI BHUWAN CHANDRA KHANDURI: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have any proposal to expand the Post and telecommunication facilities in Pauri Garhwal and Chamoli districts of Uttar Pradesh; and

(b) if so, the steps contemplated by the Government to provide telegram/telephone facilities in these areas?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI P. V. RANGAYYA NAIDU): (a) Yes Sir.

(b) There are 13 numbers of telephone exchanges in Pauri Garhwal and 16 numbers in Chamoli districts out of which 4 numbers of Telephone exchanges have been replaced by electronic type in Pauri Garhwal and 5 in Chamoli district in 1990-91. 6 numbers of exchanges have been planned to be replaced by electronic type in Pauri Garhwal and 9 in Chamoli district in 1991-92. The remaining exchanges are expected to be replaced during the rest of Eighth Plan period. There are 1214 & 632 Gram Panchayats in Pauri Garhwal and Chamoli districts respectively. There are 43 & 44 numbers of Long Distance Public Telephones (LDPTs) with Telegram facilities respectively in the above two districts. 163 & 80 numbers of LDPTs are planned to be opened during 1991-92 in Pauri Garhwal and Chamoli districts respectively. There is one telegraph office each in both districts.

Group Farming Schemes

2201. SHRI V. S. VIJAYARAGHAVAN: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of crops grown in Kerala under the Group Farming Scheme:

(b) whether the Government propose to implement Centrally Sponsored Schemes for the development of rice and vegetable cultivation in Kerala: and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN): (a) Under the Group Farming Scheme in Kerala, rice, coconut, pepper and vegetables are covered.

(b) and (c) For the development of rice, Centrally Sponsored Scheme, "Integrated Programme for Rice Development (IPRD)" and for vegetables, "Central Sector Scheme on Production

of Fruits and Vegetables" is already being implemented in the States.

For IPRD implementation during 1991-92, Rs. 115.00 lakh, as Central share, has been allocated to the State. Under Central Sector Scheme on production of fruits and vegetables, Rs. 5.00 lakh has been allocated to Kerala Agriculture University, Vellanikara, for the production of breeder and foundation seeds and Rs. 2.40 lakh to the State Government for distributing seed minikits.

Floods in Assam and Kerala

2202. SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY:
SHRI KODIKKUNNIL SURESH:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether any assessment has been made on the loss of life and damage to property, crops caused due to floods in the country especially in Assam and Kerala during July, 1991;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the Central assistance provided to these States so far to meet the situation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN): (a) and (b) Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

(c) Under the existing scheme of financing the relief expenditure, introduced from 1-4-1990, a Calamity Relief Fund (CRF) has been constituted for each State, consisting of 75% Central contribution and 25% state contribution. Annual allocation under CRF to all the States is Rs. 804 crores, of which Rs. 603 crores is contributed by the Central Government. The Central contribution is released to the State Governments in 4 equal quarterly instalments. The first and second instalments, involving 50% of the Central share of CRF has already been released. A Statement indicating the releases so far made towards the Central share of Calamity Relief Fund for the year 1991-92 is attached.

STATEMENT

Statement indicating the releases made to State Governments towards Central share of the Calamity Relief Fund for 1991-92

(*Rs. in lakhs*)

	States	*Amount*
1.	Andhra Pradesh	2460.50
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	75.00
3.	Assam	1125.00
4.	Bihar	1312.50
5.	Goa	37.50
6.	Gujarat	3187.50
7.	Haryana	637.50
8.	Himachal Pradesh	675.00
9.	Jammu & Kashmir	450.00
10.	Karnataka	1012.50
11.	Kerala	1162.50
12.	Madhya Pradesh	1387.50
13.	Maharashtra	1650.00
14.	Manipur	37.50
15.	Meghalaya	75.00
16.	Mizoram	37.50
17.	Nagaland	37.50
18.	Orissa	1489.00
19.	Punjab	1050.00
20.	Rajasthan	4650.00
21.	Sikkim	112.50
22.	Tamil Nadu	1462.50
23.	Tripura	112.50
24.	Uttar Pradesh	3375.00
25.	West Bengal	1500.00
	Total	29112.00